

HEADQUARTERS, FOURTH INFANTRY DESTROYER BATTALION

AFG 403, US Army
13 March 1945

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Subject: After Action Report for 1 February 1945 to 26 February 1945.

To: Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, 25, D. C.

On 1 February 1945, the Battalion (-) was billeted in the town of Ober-Perl, Germany, attached to the 94th Infantry Division. "B" Company (-) was located at Besch, Germany. "D" Company's second platoon was in Wies, Germany, and the first platoon was in Sinz, Germany. "C" Company (-) was located at Ober-Perl, Germany. "C" Company's first platoon was near Wochern, Germany, the third platoon East of Neming, Germany, and the second platoon was being held in reserve at Besch, Germany. "A" Company (-) was billeted at Maimuhle, Germany with the first platoon at Pillingen, Germany and the third platoon at Launstroff, France.

On 5 February 1945, Captain William J. Horn was assigned from duty to temporary duty to attend Information and Education Officers School, Paris, France.

On 7 February 1945, "C" Company was attached to the Fourth Armored Division, VCGG, Third Army, and moved to Bettenbourg, Luxembourg. Closing at 1300.

On 8 February 1945, Major Charles L. Kimsey, Executive Officer was relieved as Executive Officer and transferred to Fourth Armored Division. Captain Crosby P. Miller was relieved of duties of S - 3 and announced as Battalion Executive Officer. Captain William J. Horn was relieved of duties as Battalion S - 2 and announced as Battalion S - 3. Captain Thomas J. Evans was relieved of Headquarters Company and announced as Battalion S - 2. 1st Lieutenant William F. King, assumed command of Headquarters Company.

On 8 February 1945, "A" Company's second platoon moved to Tettingen, Germany. One section of "B" Company's second platoon moved from Wies to Sinz, Germany where it joined "B" Company's first platoon. The other section of "B" Company's second platoon rejoined the company at Besch, Germany.

On 9 February 1945, "B" Company's first platoon and one section of the second platoon moved out of Sinz, Germany in direct support of the second Battalion of the 301st Infantry Regiment's attack on the Bamholz Woods. In the course of this action, "B" Company destroyed two enemy tanks at a loss of five of our destroyers. Five men were missing after this action.

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BY THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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After Action Report for 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945. (Cont'd)

On 10 February 1945, "A" Company's first platoon moved to Sinz, Germany. One section of "B" Company's third platoon in Sinz, Germany and the second platoon of "C" Company also in that vicinity supported the attack of the second Battalion of the 376th Infantry Regiment on the Bannholz Woods. Our tank destroyers took under fire enemy tanks which repeatedly counter-attacked our Infantry from the North and Northwest and destroyed four Mark V Tanks.

On 11 February 1945, "B" Company was put in Battalion Reserve and billeted in the town of Besch, Germany. One officer and twenty-eight enlisted men from "A" Company went to Metz on pass for three days. "A" Company (-) first and second platoons moved to Berg, Germany closing at 1200.

On 12 February 1945, Captain William J. Horn, 0101175, returned to the Battalion after temporary duty in Paris, France.

At 1700, on 13 February 1945, Major General Maloney, 94th Infantry Division Commander presented the Silver Star to Lt. Colonel James W. Bidwell and awards to five enlisted men.

On the 14 February 1945, one section of "A" Company's third platoon moved to Fettingen and joined the second platoon. "B" Company's first platoon received a new type uniform on an experimental basis.

On 15 February 1945, "A" Company's second platoon destroyed one enemy pillbox East of Fettingen, Germany, while supporting the Infantry's attack on two pillboxes in that area.

On 17 February 1945, 2nd Lieutenant William L. Kline, 0887639, was transferred from "B" Company to Battalion Headquarters and assigned as Assistant S-3 and Information Education Officer.

On 19 February 1945, "A" and "B" Company's moved in direct support of the 94th Infantry Division's attack on the Siegfried Switch line in the Saar-Moselle triangle. The battalion established a forward CP at Wochern, Germany. One of "A" Company's destroyers hit a mine and was put out of action. Throughout the remainder of the month, "A" and "B" Companies continued in their support roles throughout the closing of the Saar-Moselle triangle and the breaching of the Siegfried line in that area.

On 21 February 1945, Captain Crosby P. Miller was promoted to Major per S. 145, Headquarters Third United States Army, dated 16 February 1945. On the same date Captain Henry G. Burkett, Battalion Maintenance Officer was killed in action and Captain John R. Tytus, Adjutant was seriously wounded in action and hospitalized.

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After Action Report for 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945. (Cont'd) Page 3

"B" Company destroyed two enemy AT Guns, killed an unknown number of the enemy and took one prisoner. One of "B" Company's tank destroyer's hit a mine and was put out of action. "A" Company moved to Orscholz, Germany, closing at 1201.

On 22 February 1945, "B" Company moved its CP to Freudenbrug, Germany, closing at 0900. 2nd Lieutenant William L. Kline, OSS7639, was relieved from assignment as Assistant S - 3 and announced Adjutant.

On 23 February 1945, the Battalion (-) "A", "B", and "C" Companies moved from Ober-Perl, Germany to Trassen, Germany closing at 1130. "A" Company's first, second and third platoons and "B" Company's second platoon crossed the Saar River at Taben, Germany.

On 25 February 1945, "B" Company moved its first and third platoons across the Saar River at Taben, Germany.

On 26 February 1945, "B" Company moved its CP to Serrig, Germany closing at 1700. "A" Company moved its CP to Serrig, Germany closing at 1700.

On 27 February 1945, Battalion (-) "A", "B", and "C" Companies left Trassen, Germany at 1330 and moved to Saarburg, Germany closing at 1400. "A" Company (-) moved three miles north of Serrig closing at 1700.

During the month Battalion had one officer KIA and one officer wounded. There were six ~~EM~~ wounded; four missing; 26 sick and evacuated.

Battalion received ten replacements during the month. Also nineteen returned to duty.

On 13 February 1945, Major General Maloney, Commander of the 94th Infantry Division visited Battalion and presented the Award of the Silver Star to Lt. Colonel James W. Bidwell, for action at Luneville, France. Also, Tec 5 Richard W. Bowman, Medical Detachment received the Silver Star award. 1st Lt. J. J. Preneta and 2nd Lt. Charles Kollin, both hospitalized as result of wounds received in action, were awarded Distinguished Service Cross, per General Order #42 and #40, Headquarters, Third United States Army. Sixteen Bronze Stars were awarded to officers and ~~EM~~ of this Unit during the month.

Strength as of 28 February 1945 was:

OFFICERS—33

W/O—1

EM—542

TOTAL—576

For the Commanding Officer

William L. Kline 3

WILLIAM L. KLINE
2nd Lt., FA (TD)
Adjutant